

# MadFolk News

## David Francey Plays Only Wisconsin date in Madison

David Francey has been part of the Mad-Folk line up for years! We love his music but the charm of David is to see him perform in person. Not only are the songs enjoyable to listen to, but his behind the scenes stories are splendid. You put these together and the magic on the stage never ends. Francey's musical style is heavily influenced by traditional folk, but with an added depth that is uniquely his own. His voice is warm and hushed, and his songs often convey a sense of quiet reflection.

His songs go the whole gambit from songs about love, loss, hope, to the everyday struggles of ordinary people, capturing the rhythms of life with remarkable simplicity. Whether it is the songs of the working man or about the landscape that we drive by everyday, they are 100% pure joy to listen to.

Listen to Torn Screen Door which was his first album, you hear that song and you can just see the imagery before your eyes. He will take you aboard a ship and you will feel the longing of a seaman waiting to get home to his family. When he sings of being a paperboy, your mind will fill with the waking of the day.

You'll take home a CD and listen and remember the stories heard at the concert.

On this tour of the mid-west the only Wisconsin date will be in Madison, then he is off to Australia! So come out for this afternoon show at the North Street Cabaret – if you want to do a late brunch, let me suggest Tip -Top which is right across the street, they always have an interesting scramble. Or perhaps just come right to the venue for the Sunday Bloody Mary! Whatever you de-

side, I know your tastebuds will be most excited about the music you will hear.

We are going to do this as an afternoon show so that everyone can still make it home to watch the Superbowl if so inclined! You can find a link for tickets on our website [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org). This show will be at The North Street Cabaret, 3:00 – 5:00, doors open at 2:00 tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 day of show. Please feel free to bring a non-perishable donation of food to be donated

## ARE YOU GOOD WITH NUMBERS?

Checking with our music community, Do you have accounting experience or a love of numbers and spreadsheets? Madfolk is seeking a new treasurer. Nice board members! Training available. Please send a message [darlene@blettner.com](mailto:darlene@blettner.com) if there is anyone out there who would like to take on the role of Treasurer for MadFolk. It is pretty basic, and there will be transfer of duties training. Remember we are small so there is not a lot of time needed, for instance to recon-

cile a bank statement, there are normally five or less transactions a month, quite often only one. The following is a list of what we need help with

We use Quicken for:  
 Monthly bank reconciliation  
 Quarterly organization financial reporting  
 Annual WI sales tax reporting  
 Annual Federal informational reporting



# WAKE THE DEAD - CHUCK PROPHET FEATURING ¿QUIENSAVE?

2024 - YEP ROC RECORDS



Review by Kiki Schueler

It's easy to imagine that the seeds for Chuck Prophet's collaboration with ¿Quiensave? on his recent release *Wake the Dead* were planted way back in 2009 when he traveled to Mexico to record another record that requires special symbols. The Mexico City sessions for ¡Let Freedom Ring! endured power interruptions, earthquakes, and a pandemic. The swine flu scare had enough of an effect on their time south of the border that the first copies of the CD came with a mask printed with record name. Fast forward to a real pandemic, Prophet found himself listening to a lot of music during Covid, and what he listened to most was cumbia. According to Wikipedia, cumbia refers to "a number of musical rhythms and folk dance traditions of Latin America," and is said to have evolved from Afro-Columbian tradition. He didn't need to travel any further than Salinas, just two hours south of his San Francisco home, to get a fix. He started jamming with ¿Quiensave?, a band of friends and brothers from the Central Coast farming community, who proved to be a natural fit for Prophet's music, as well as blending seamlessly with the members of Prophet's Mission Express in the studio.

Chuck Prophet has written a lot of catchy tunes over the years, but he has never created anything as consistently infectious as *Wake the Dead*. The title track opens the record with groovy percussion and accordion, while James DePrato of the Mission Express fills in guitar riffs wherever

there's room. "Gonna wake the dead, get 'em on their feet, gonna count our nickels like we're counting sheep," Prophet sings with such conviction it seems he does intend to do just that. The rhythm continues into the next tracks so seamlessly that you might not even realize he's moved on to another song. A different song sequence might have given "Betty's Song" and "Give the Boy a Kiss" a chance to stand on their own instead of sounding like parts two and three. Most of the songs were written with frequent collaborator Kurt Lipschutz, with help from DePrato, but a 2012 co-write with Alejandro Escovedo (first appearing on his *Big Station* album), turns out to be a perfect fit here. "Sally Was a Cop" paints a grim picture of Mexican cartel violence, "shot in the back in the ditches of Tecate, 35 bodies lying in the highway. Children forced to dig the graves of their fathers," lightened only a little by the "whoa oh oh oh" backing vocals that seem to have echoed through the years from Temple Beautiful's "Willie Mays Is Up at Bat."

For "Red Sky Night" he worked with Nashvillians Kim Ritchie, whom he wrote the enduring favorite "Pin a Rose On Me" with, and Aaron Lee Tasjan to write what may be the most unremarkable track here. There are echoes of "After the Rain," as well as a lovely string arrangement, but it's the only spot where the record loses its groove. It gets it back in spades on "Same Old Crime," a laid-back, smooth-talking jam with a few well-placed gritos, a haunting organ, and some heavy doses of reverb. Smooth backing vocals echo the song's opening couplet "I wish I was a fish in the ocean I wish I was a bird in the sky" in Spanish on the fade-out. It could have been cluttered, but it's not. "One Lie For Me, One For You" is similarly brilliant; ¿Quiensave? sing "ooh hey" with the hypnotic rhythm of a chain gang, paired with an organ that

sounds like church bells. "It's a Good Day to Be Alive" is the perfect closer, and the first time we really get to hear Stephanie Finch, his life and band mate. From the miraculous to the mundane, from "It's a good day to walk on the water" to "good day to call your mother." Prophet takes joy in all of it. We should all be so lucky.

Chuck Prophet & His Cumbia Shoes play the Stoughton Opera House on February 8. Hope to see you there.

Mad Folk News is published monthly by the Madison Folk Music Society, a non-profit, volunteer-led society dedicated to fostering folk music in the Madison area.

Contact us at [madfolk@charter.net](mailto:madfolk@charter.net). Learn about concerts, membership, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org).

[www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835)

## Madison Folk Music Society Board

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If you are on Facebook, please consider (if you have not already) "friending" or is it "liking" this page. Then when you are on this page you can invite others to "like" this page.

<https://www.facebook.com/madisonfolkmusicsociety>



• See madfolk.org or our facebook page for latest show postings

## David Francey

Sunday, February 9th

@3pm at North Street Cabaret, 610 North Street, Madison, WI - \$25 adv / \$30 d.o.s.

## John Gorka

Friday, April 18th at 7pm (doors @6) - North Street Cabaret, Madison

\$27 advance / \$30 day of show

*On the Air*



Don't forget!  
Non-perishable donations of food are collected for local food banks at all Mad Folk shows!

**Simply Folk** on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Síle Shigley, Jeff Durkey & Steve Gotcher



Sun 5:00-8:00pm

Concerts recorded in Wisconsin, music and dance of people the world over. For playlists, calendars, station listings, and more, visit [www.wpr.org/simplyfolk](http://www.wpr.org/simplyfolk)



**WORT 89.9 FM** community radio visit <https://wortfm.org> for more info!

- Sun 3pm - 5pm - On the Horizon (international, world, ethnic music) w/ Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak, Gloria Hays & Helena White
- Mon 9am to noon - Global Revolutions (folk music from the world over) w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado & Helena White
- Tue 9am to noon - Green Morning Radio (indie, folk, rock, alt, country, acoustic blues & singer-songwriters) w/ Brian Hirsh - Except Last Tuesday of the month - One Fine Morning w/ P.C. Allen
- Wed 9am to noon - Back to the Country (country music on a theme) w/ Steven & Marianne, Nate Gibson, Art Stevenson & Bill Malone
- Thur 9am to noon - Hejira (folk and international) w/ Jeff Spitzer-Resnick
- Fri - Mud Acres (bluegrass and acoustic) w/ Chris Powers



**WVMO** The Voice of Monona - Promoting the best in Good Music - Roots Music - Americana Music

Plus Community Members Hosted Shows

Streaming Live and on your mobile device through tunein radio

### Stuart Stotts

Weekly new song Facebook Live event. Song Premiere on Tuesday (SPOT) at 11AM [facebook.com/stuart.stotts](https://facebook.com/stuart.stotts)

*Misc*

**Sea Shanty Sing @Roxy's Restobar** -- 208 W. Main St, Stoughton

No experience necessary. Songbooks provided and songs taught. 7pm every second Tuesday.

**Open Mic @Cargo Coffee** -- 750 E. Washington Ave.

Brave the stage or enjoy the show every first and third Sunday, 5-7pm. Sign-up starts at 4:30pm

**Open Mic @Java Cat** -- 4221 Lien Rd.

Check out local talent at the cafe's new location on the last two Sundays of each month.

### Old Time Jam

Monthly - 3rd Saturday of every month, 2 to 5pm

Location: Brix Cider, Mt Horeb

Coodinator: Greg Jones, [7771jones@gmail.com](mailto:7771jones@gmail.com)

Al Wilson, [adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu](mailto:adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu)

**Madison Area Ukulele Initiative** -- Singalongs

3rd Sunday 11am - 1:30pm

- for location visit [www.MAUImadison.com](http://www.MAUImadison.com)

Poetic perception and a keen eye for the heart of the matter are trademarks of the man and his music. His songs and stories are a direct connection for audiences seeking depth and meaning in the day-to-day." *Shelter Valley Folk Festival.*



 **Madison Folk Music  
Society PRESENTS**

# David Francey

**Sunday, February 9, 2025**

**3:00 – 5:00 pm**

**THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI**

Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 day of show

Available at: <https://buytickets.at/madisonfolkmusicsociety/1471698>

Non-perishable donations of food will be collected for local food banks.



## Venues



18 S Water St.  
Ft. Atkinson, WI  
cafecarpe.com  
920-563-9391

### Cafe Carpe

- Sat, Feb 8th - Satchel Paige - @8pm - \$15
- Fri, Feb 14th - The Boston Imposters - @8pm - \$15
- Sat, Feb 15th - Lonesome Bill Camplin - @8pm - \$15
- Fri, Feb 21st - Maximiano / The Spine Stealers - @8:30pm
- Fri, Feb 28th - Christine Lavin - @8pm - \$30



Wil-Mar Center  
504 S. Brearly St.  
wildhoginthewoods.org  
608-233-5687

### Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday Feb 7 at 7:30pm - Chris Powers
- Friday Feb 14 at 7:30pm - David HB Brake - Benefit for the Wild Hog
- Saturday Feb 15 at 2pm - Hootenanny Singalong
- Friday Feb 21 at 7:30pm - Lochanside
- Friday Feb 28 at 7:30pm - Pat Gaughan with Nancy Maio

### FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

3210 Cty Hwy BB  
Dodgeville, WI  
folklorevillage.org  
608-924-4000

### Folklore Village

- Tues, Feb 4th - Online Open Mic
- Tue, Feb 11th - Exploring Dance Piano Styles Session 1: "The Basics"
- Sat, Feb 15th - Barn Dance
- Tue, Feb 18th - Exploring Dance Piano Styles Session 2: "Couple Dances"
- Tue, Feb 25th - Exploring Dance Piano Styles Session 3: "Contra, Old-Time, and Squares"
- Tue, Mar 4th - Online Open Mic

### NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St  
Madison, WI  
northstreetcabaret.com

- Thur, Feb 13th - Nick Dumas and Branchline @7:30pm - \$20 adv / \$27 d.o.s.
- Wed, Feb 19th - Open Mic @7pm



## Our House

Invitation & Advance RSVP required. (located in Madison)

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Dave & Anne at

annedave@chorus.net - 608-256-2958 or 335-7909 - Admission for all concerts is \$20 entirely for musicians

- Friday, February 7th @7:30pm - Radoslav Lorković - \$20
- Saturday, March 1st @7:30pm - Willy Porter - \$20

## Kiki's Righteous House of Music

Invitation & Advance RSVP required. (located in Madison)

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Kiki at  
righteousmusicgmt@gmail.com

- Fri, Feb 7th - @8pm (doors at 7) Nathan Graham & Band - \$15 - sold out - waitlist for cancellations
- Fri, Feb 14th - @8pm (doors at 7) Ben de la Cour - \$20
- Sat, Mar 8th - @8pm (doors at 7) Nora O'Connor - \$20

# In Sympathy

By Emily Bebe

When Sierra Hull performed at the Stoughton Opera House for a sold-out show, I was offered the opportunity to attend the concert through a spare ticket from a friend of a friend. This friend's friend's friend was unable to attend the concert, so my friend passed along the offer to their friend (whom I have since friended). Little did I know that this chance meeting would open my eyes to an unfamiliar stringed instrument because my new friend was the first person I ever met who was learning to play one.

Here is its definition according to Clarke's Music Company Glossary of Folk Musical Instruments: an instrument with plucked strings (the upper few of which can be fretted), and around 13 sympathetic strings below the frets which resonate along with the plucked fretted strings.

The curators of this definition weren't sure how many strings this instrument had, or why it needed built-in sympathy. On further investigation, I learned that it is traditionally made from pumpkins (you can play a one-pumpkin or a two-pumpkin style). It has frets, but they are tied on, so you can move them around. Clever! It has two bridges, like Manhattan. It is typically tuned to the universal key of C# and requires retuning with each melody. Plus, there are drone strings, like New Jersey.

Did I mention that it can take more than a year to get a pleasant sound out of it and that playing one has been described by one student to be like 'running your finger over a cheese slicer'? This instrument has no written music. For you tablature fans, ha ha ha ha ha!!! Also, there is

no place for a strap as it is festooned with more friction tuning pegs than a rosewood hedgehog. The proper way to hold one is to remove your shoes, sit on the floor with your left knee bent and your right knee crossed over your left knee (the instrument rests on your left foot). A typical tune on this instrument lasts about half an hour to an hour. A master's degree in Hatha Yoga is helpful. This instrument is not suitable for marching bands, unless they march barefoot and allow the band boosters to pull a float.

By now, I'm sure you have guessed that I am talking about ... the sitar. Rest assured, it will not be making an appearance at your local bluegrass session anytime soon, despite its distant relation to the banjo (also sometimes made from a squash). Nobody wants to voluntarily sit on the floor in an establishment that hosts a bluegrass jam. It's not that these aren't clean places, it's because musicians tend to drool a little when they are concentrating.

Many are familiar with the sitar's sound because of musicians such as George Harrison who seriously studied this instrument under the tutelage of Ravi Shankar and popularized its sound on several Beatles recordings. Happily, musicians who crave the buzzy, rhythmic, bendy-string melody of the sitar can now replicate it with a guitar pedal and forgo the odyssey of learning the instrument and the extensive Eastern music theory required to play traditional Indian Raga music.

For those music students craving a more Western form of sympathy, there are two great Scandinavian

options.

The Swedish nyckelharpa is a 16-string instrument with 3 melody strings, 1 drone, and 12 sympathetic strings that vibrate along with the melody. It had 37 wooden keys under the strings that are pushed with the left hand while the player bows the melody strings with the right hand. It has been described as the love child of a typewriter and a fiddle. Happily, it does have a place for a strap and can be played while standing so would be a perfect addition to any marching band except for Norwegian ones, which are better suited to a different (i.e., non-Swedish) folk instrument.

In May 2024, Wisconsin lost one of its finest Norwegian American luthiers, Ron Poast. Born and raised in the Driftless and setting down roots in Black Earth, Ron was a familiar presence in the Southern Wisconsin old-time fiddle community. Ron was a renowned builder of the Hardanger fiddle, which like the sitar, has 4-5 sympathetic strings that resonate underneath four bowed strings to produce a full and haunting accompaniment to traditional Norwegian folk melodies, particularly dance tunes. Although Ron is no longer playing alongside his fellow musicians, his 500 or so hand-crafted PoastMark fiddles are still resonating around the world, reminding us of his sympathetic and exquisite musical contributions to old time music. It has been a privilege to meet Mr. Poast and hear his fine fiddles put to good use at dances, jam sessions, and other social gatherings. Thank you, Ron.

**"WHEN IS MY RENEWAL DUE?"**

**(Hint: It is NOT the date on the mailing label!)**

The date shown on the mailing label is NOT your membership expiration date!

There has been some confusion lately, and we apologize for that.

The date is just the date the labels were printed, as new cost-saving postal procedures do not allow us to include expiration dates there anymore.

When it is time to renew, we will send you a personal notice by mail or email.

At that point you will be able to either mail a check or renew online at [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org).

If you have questions about your membership in the meantime, send email to [info@madfolk.org](mailto:info@madfolk.org). Thanks for your membership and support of Mad Folk!

**Way #1 – online**

Visit [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org) and click on "Join MFMS"

**Way #2 – unplugged**

Complete, clip, and mail this form

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835>

Madison Folk Music Society

P.O. Box 665, Madison, WI 53701

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Madison Folk Music Society

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Choose membership category:

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Friend \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

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Life \$500 \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship fund donation (optional) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GOING GREEN - Send my newsletters electronically by email

Send your check, payable to MFMS to: Mad Folk c/o

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